

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A method of forming and cleaning a via in a partially fabricated integrated circuit having a top, wherein the integrated circuit comprises a metal layer, an anti-reflective coating above the metal layer, and a dielectric layer above the anti-reflective coating, the method comprising:

depositing an organic resist layer on the top of the partially fabricated integrated circuit;

forming an opening in the resist layer;

etching a via through the opening in the resist layer, wherein the via extends through the dielectric layer and the anti-reflective coating, thereby exposing the metal layer; and

cleaning the via by exposing the via to a plasma that simultaneously removes the resist layer, wherein the plasma is formed from a gas comprising ammonia.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the gas comprises oxygen.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the gas comprises at least 25% ammonia.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 3, wherein the gas comprises at least about 50% ammonia.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein exposing the via to a plasma occurs at a temperature between about 100° and about 400°C.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the dielectric layer comprises an oxide.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein etching a via comprises a plasma etch.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising depositing a conductive material into the via after cleaning the via.

9. (Original) A method of forming and cleaning a void in a partially fabricated integrated circuit comprising:

depositing a resist layer on a top of the partially fabricated integrated circuit;

forming an aperture in the resist layer;

etching a void through the aperture in the resist layer and through an underlying dielectric layer to expose a metal layer, thereby forming a residue in the void; and

removing the resist layer and the residue from the void by exposing the partially fabricated integrated circuit to a plasma formed from a gas comprising ammonia and rinsing the exposed void.

10. (Original) The method of Claim 9, wherein the residue comprises metal from the metal layer.

11. (Original) The method of Claim 9, wherein etching the void comprises performing a directional etch.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 11, wherein etching the void comprises a reactive ion etch.

13. (Original) The method of Claim 12, wherein a radio frequency power is set to at least about 900 W during the reactive ion etch.

14. (Original) The method of Claim 12, wherein the reactive ion etch is magnetically enhanced.

15. (Original) The method of Claim 9, wherein etching through the mask comprises etching through a metal covering layer situated between the first metal layer and the dielectric layer.

16. (Original) The method of Claim 15, wherein the metal covering layer comprises an antireflection layer.

17. (Original) The method of Claim 15, wherein the metal covering layer comprises titanium nitride.

18. (Original) The method of Claim 9, wherein rinsing the exposed void comprises dipping the integrated circuit into a dilute phosphoric acid bath.

19. (Original) The method of Claim 9, wherein rinsing the exposed void comprises exposing a void sidewall to deionized water.

20. (Original) The method of Claim 9, wherein rinsing the exposed void comprises exposing a void sidewall to isopropyl alcohol.